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The duration of the present convention shall be 23 years; if not denounced 6 months before the end of this term by either of the contracting Governments it shall be considered as extended for a further period of 3 years.

AUSTRALIA.

Sydney—Examination of Rodents.

According to a statement issued by the department of health of New South Wales, 591 rodents were examined at Sydney for plague infection during the two weeks ended September 14, 1912. No plague-infected rodent was found.

CHINA.

Hongkong—Plague—Examination of Rats.

Surg. Brown reports: During the week ended August 26, 1912, there were reported at Hongkong 2 cases of plague with 2 deaths.

During the same period there were examined for plague infection 1,262 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

Nanking—Cholera.

Cholera was reported prevalent, August 29, at Nanking. One case was reported among Europeans.

Shanghai—Cholera.

During the week ended September 7, 1912, there were reported 7 cases of cholera occurring in the non-Chinese population, which numbers 14,000 inhabitants.

CUBA.

Habana—Examination of Rats.

During the week ended October 5, 1912, there were examined at Habana for plague infection 535 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Plague on Steamship in River Tyne.

The following information was taken from a statement issued September 28, 1912, by the local government board:

An imported case of human plague has occurred on board a vessel in the River Tyne Port sanitary district.

The patient was an apprentice on board the steamship *Bellavilla*, which arrived in the River Tyne from Hamburg on the morning of September 10. Later in the day the boy was taken ill and was removed to the floating hospital as a case of typhoid fever. On the following day the port medical officer of health suspected the case to be plague, and a sample of the patient's blood was taken for examination. On September 13 the bacteriologist at the College of Medicine, Newcastle, reported that cultures from the material showed colonies resembling *B. pestis*, and further samples of blood were taken.

The boy died on September 16, and on September 18 a post-mortem examination was made by the port medical officer of health and further material obtained for examination. The diagnosis of the case as one of plague has been confirmed at the board's laboratory.